

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENDED

The Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program has been extended for two months from 1/3/2012 to 3/6/2012. This latest federal legislation, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011, does not include any additional weeks of benefits and just extends the filing deadlines to apply for new EUC claims and to move to Tier II or Tier III. If you have already collected the maximum amount of 47 weeks, you are not entitled to more EUC benefits. The information below will be updated as soon as details are available.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ENDS 1/3/2012

Tier I – 20 weeks

Tier II – 14 weeks

Tier III – 13 weeks

The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program will end on January 3, 2012 unless Congress takes action to extend the program.

New EUC initial claims. Individuals must exhaust their Regular benefits with the week ending December 24, 2011 to be eligible for EUC. New EUC initial claim applications must be filed by December 30, 2011.

Existing EUC claims. Individuals on existing EUC claims can continue to file their weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications to collect the remaining balance of their Tier up to June 9, 2012. To move to the next Tier, individuals must exhaust all benefits on their present Tier by January 3, 2012.

On December 17, 2010, President Obama signed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 which extended the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program from November 30, 2010 to January 3, 2012. This is the ninth legislation affecting the EUC program. This new legislation extended the deadlines for filing for the federal extension but did not add more weeks of unemployment benefits. **If you have already collected 47 weeks of EUC benefits, you are not eligible for more EUC benefits in Hawaii.**

20 weeks of Tier I EUC. The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, signed by President Bush on June 30, 2008, provided up to 13 weeks of federally funded EUC benefits in all states to unemployed individuals who collected all regular benefits or

whose benefit claims were expired. The first payable week is week ending July 12, 2008. On November 21, 2008, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 signed by President Bush expanded Tier I up to 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks. The first payable week for the 7 additional weeks is week ending November 29, 2008. You must exhaust Tier I benefits on or before January 3, 2012 to be eligible for Tier II benefits.

14 weeks of Tier II EUC. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 enacted on November 21, 2008, also authorized a second tier of 13 additional weeks in states with high unemployment. With the total unemployment rate climbing to more than 6 % in the first quarter of 2009, Hawaii triggered on to Tier II. The first payable week for Tier II is week ending May 9, 2009. On November 6, 2009, the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 signed by President Obama provided one additional week on Tier II making a total of 14 weeks payable and removed the high unemployment trigger for this level. You must exhaust Tier II benefits on or before January 3, 2012 to be eligible for Tier III benefits.

13 weeks of Tier III EUC. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act which is effective November 8, 2009 also added a third tier of 13 additional weeks in states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 4% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 6%.

6 weeks of Tier IV EUC. NOT AVAILABLE IN HAWAII. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act also added a fourth tier for states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 6% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 8.5%. Hawaii EUC claimants do not qualify for Tier IV as the unemployment rate for the state is below the trigger level.

Remaining Tier balances on existing claims. After January 3, 2012, individuals may continue to be eligible for their remaining Tier balance on their existing EUC claim. You will not be eligible to move up to the next Tier level. No EUC benefits can be paid for any week that begins after June 9, 2012.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EUC?

To be eligible, individuals must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be currently unemployed, exhaust all of your Regular benefits as of the week ending December 24, 2011, and apply for EUC by December 30, 2011. The EUC program ends January 3, 2012 unless Congress takes action to extend it. No new EUC applications will be accepted for weeks of unemployment ending after December 31, 2011.
2. You had a claim for regular benefits with a benefit year ending May 1, 2007 or later which has exhausted or has expired.

3. You must have no rights to regular benefits or any other compensation under federal law and not receiving benefits under the Canada unemployment law.
4. You must have one of the following in the base period of your last regular unemployment insurance claim:
 - 20 weeks of full-time insured employment or
 - Wages equal to one and one-half times your high quarter wages or
 - Wages equal to 40 times the weekly benefit amount on your last regular claim.
5. You must satisfy all eligibility requirements of the Hawaii Employment Security Law.
6. You must be registered in HireNet Hawaii and keep your resume posted online. You must continue to make 3 job contacts each week.
7. You must not have a disqualification or ineligibility still in effect.

In addition to the above, you must exhaust each Tier on or before January 3, 2012 to be eligible for the next Tier.

HOW DO I FILE FOR EUC?

1. New EUC Claims - Exhaustees of Regular UI benefits.

For individuals who exhaust regular UI benefits, notices are being mailed out weekly with instructions to report in-person to a local claims office with your notice or to call Hawaii Tele-Claim and apply for EUC by phone. (Applications for EUC cannot be filed over the internet.) The maximum benefit amount on your new EUC claim will be 20 times your weekly benefit amount for Tier I. The last day to apply for a new EUC claim is December 30, 2011.

Individuals who exhaust regular UI benefits after December 24, 2011 will not be eligible to collect EUC unless the program is extended by Congress.

To file new applications or to reopen EUC claims by phone:

Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-5555 (if you are in Hawaii) or
1-877-215-5793 (if you are out-of-state)

Sunday through Thursday 6:30 am to 12 midnight (HST) and
Friday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm.

To file applications for EUC in person: See Local Claim Office locations and contact information below.

2. EUC filers with existing EUC claims - Claimants who have exhausted 20 weeks of Tier I or 34 weeks of Tier II.

Tier I to Tier II. If you are currently filing EUC and exhaust 20 weeks of Tier I EUC benefits on or before January 3, 2012, you will be eligible for 14 additional weeks of Tier II EUC. Your maximum benefit amount will automatically be increased and a revised determination will be mailed to you. Continue to file your weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications.

Tier II to Tier III. If you are currently on Tier II and exhaust 14 weeks of Tier II EUC benefits on or before January 3, 2012, you will be eligible for 13 additional weeks of Tier III EUC. Your maximum benefit amount will be automatically increased and a revised determination will be mailed to you. Continue to file your weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications.

If you do not receive a revised determination, please report to your local claims office or call Hawaii Tele-Claim to request an extension.

To file weekly or bi-weekly EUC claim certifications by phone:

Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-2222 (if you are in Hawaii) or
1-877-215-5791 (if you are out-of-state)

To file weekly or bi-weekly EUC claim certifications by internet: Go to uiclaims.hawaii.gov.

WHY ARE SOME WEEKS PENDING EUC REVIEW AND NOT PAID?

All states are required by federal guidelines to conduct a review at the end of every calendar quarter on each EUC claim. This review is to determine whether you qualify for a new regular claim or can continue on your EUC claim. While the review is pending, continue to file your weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications. The local claims office conducts this review and will release payments after the review is done or advise you of your options regarding the continuation of EUC benefits or filing for a new regular claim. If you cannot continue on EUC and must file a new regular claim, this may result in a new lower weekly benefit amount.

WILL FEDERAL ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION (FAC) PAYMENTS OF \$25 STILL BE INCLUDED IN MY CHECKS?

No. As of December 11, 2010, the FAC program ended.

HONOLULU Claims Office
830 Punchbowl St., Rm 110
PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971
Fax: 586-8980
Email: dlir.ui.honolulu@hawaii.gov

KANEOHE Claims Unit
PO Box 4087
Honolulu, HI 96812-4087
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971
Fax: 586-8980
Email: dlir.ui.honolulu@hawaii.gov

WAIPAHU Claims Office
94-275 Mokuola St, Rm 301
Waipahu, HI 96797-3369
Ph: 675-0030
Fax: 675-0025
Email: dlir.ui.waipahu@hawaii.gov

HILO Claims Office
1990 Kinooole St., Ste 101
Hilo, HI 96720-5293
Ph: 974-4086
Fax: 974-4085
Email: dlir.ui.hilo@hawaii.gov

MAUI Claims Office
54 South High St., Rm 201
Wailuku, HI 96793
Ph: 984-8400
Fax: 984-8444
Email: dlir.ui.maui@hawaii.gov

KAUAI Claims Office
3-3100 Kuhio Hwy, Rm C-12
Lihue, HI 96766
Ph: 274-3043
Fax: 274-3046
Email: dlir.ui.kauai@hawaii.gov

LIABLE INTERSTATE Unit (out-of-state)
PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: (808) 586-8960
Fax: (808) 586-8980
Email: dlir.ui.honolulu@hawaii.gov

KANEOHE Office
46-005 Kawa St., Ste 205
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Ph: 233-3679

KONA Claims Office
81-990 Halekii St, Rm 2090
Kealahou, HI 96750
Ph: 322-4822
Fax: 322-4828
Email: dlir.ui.kona@hawaii.gov

MOLOKAI Claims Office
55 Makaena St, Rm 4
Kaunakakai, HI 96748-1858
Ph: 553-1750
Fax: 553-1753